

2005 White House Conference on Aging  
Solutions Forum – September 30, 2005 - San Antonio, Texas

Summary of Comments By Palmer Moe, Managing Director  
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

**Foundation Background**

**Kronkosky Charitable Foundation**

- Independent Foundation
- Established by Albert and Bessie Mae Kronkosky
- Approximately \$265 million in Assets
- Grants in 4-county region around San Antonio
- \$11,500,000 Annually in Grants
- \$ 970,000 to Elderly programs so far in 2005
- \$10,322,000 to Elderly programs since 1997
- Major Areas of Giving to Elderly Programs-
  - Nutrition Services and Food Bank
  - Senior Centers
  - Health Related Services
  - Home Repair and Modification
  - Nursing Homes for Indigent
  - Prescription Assistance
  - Assistance in homes and other services
- Website - [www.kronkosky.org](http://www.kronkosky.org)

**Civic and Social Engagement**

**What will be the level of participation in volunteerism among baby boomers?**

- I am optimistic that it will be high. Consider how many have read and studied the "Purpose Driven Life" - 10 million copies sold in 2004
- Many of my generation are looking to add meaning to their lives
- The single, greatest factor that spurs volunteerism is to be asked. (Center for Health Communication-Harvard School of Public Health, 2004)

**How do we integrate the elderly with the non-elderly community?**

- Strategies for changing attitudes toward aging – Look at the aging Baby Boomer population as an asset, not a liability:
  - When considering this phenomenon, many funders and nonprofits see the large number of Baby Boomers nearing retirement as a crisis in waiting.
  - However, within this population is a remarkable resource waiting to be tapped.
    - 41% of Baby Boomers have a college degree.
      - To not use this incredible body of knowledge and experience would be waste.
    - Baby Boomers have stated that they would like to work in the Educational and Social Service Field (MetLife Foundation/Civic Ventures, 2005).

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- Use professionals in this age group to benefit from services you might not otherwise be able to afford.
  - Accounting, marketing, income development.
  - Internal volunteer policies that match organizational needs with the needs of the volunteer should be established. (Center for Health Communication-Harvard School of Public Health, 2004)
- Regardless of the program area you fund, look at the Aging as a potential partner in making a greater impact:
  - Education
    - Retired individuals going into teaching and education related areas post retirement.
  - Health and Wellness
    - Retired medical doctors continuing to provide charitable care post-retirement.
  - Leadership:
    - Business executives and professionals passing on valuable business acumen to nonprofit organizations.
  - Money Management
    - Retired individuals helping other seniors in money management programs and guardianships
- Other thoughts
  - Give consideration to intergenerational programs.
    - Pass on the expertise to future generations
    - Build internal capacity for organizations.
    - Recognize personal desires (not all seniors want to hold babies)

**What types of social and volunteer activities will attract baby boomers?**

- Creation of baby boomer volunteer opportunities
  - Nonprofit organizations are understaffed almost without exception
  - Churches can expand services into neighborhoods and for their congregations
  - The major limiting factor for expansion of youth serving agencies into underserved areas is lack of volunteers
  - Encourage neighborhood associations to provide leadership
- Promoting expanded opportunities for companionship and leisure to reduce isolation and loneliness
  - Social Activities
    - Build more senior centers and fund their operations
    - At bus transfer points, build parking garages with senior centers and child care centers on upper floors
    - Encourage church programs for elderly activities

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- Consider neighborhood schools as alternative location
- Physical activities
  - Exercise programs
  - Dancing
  - Walking
- Educational activities
  - Continuing education for professionals
  - Computer training, particularly on using email to stay in touch with family
  - Encourage Nonprofit board membership –Masters Leadership Program in San Antonio is a great model.

**How can barriers that prevent older Americans from volunteering in their communities be removed?**

- Transportation
  - Focus on programs near where the elderly live
  - Consider bus vouchers for low income elderly
- Charitable Giving - Retired households own 58% more wealth, make 35% less income and contribute 69% more to charity than non retired households
  - Allow nontaxable contributions out of IRA's
  - Increase deductible mileage rate for those who transport seniors and the disabled as volunteers for nonprofit organizations
- Training
  - Support training programs for retired persons who want to work in schools
    - Nearly half of Americans 50-70 support funding, grants, or tax credits for seniors to get training to prepare for educational and social service work (MetLife Foundation/Civic Ventures, 2005)
- Liability Exposure
  - Consider medical malpractice lawsuit exemption for doctors serving low income persons on a volunteer basis

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Sources:

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